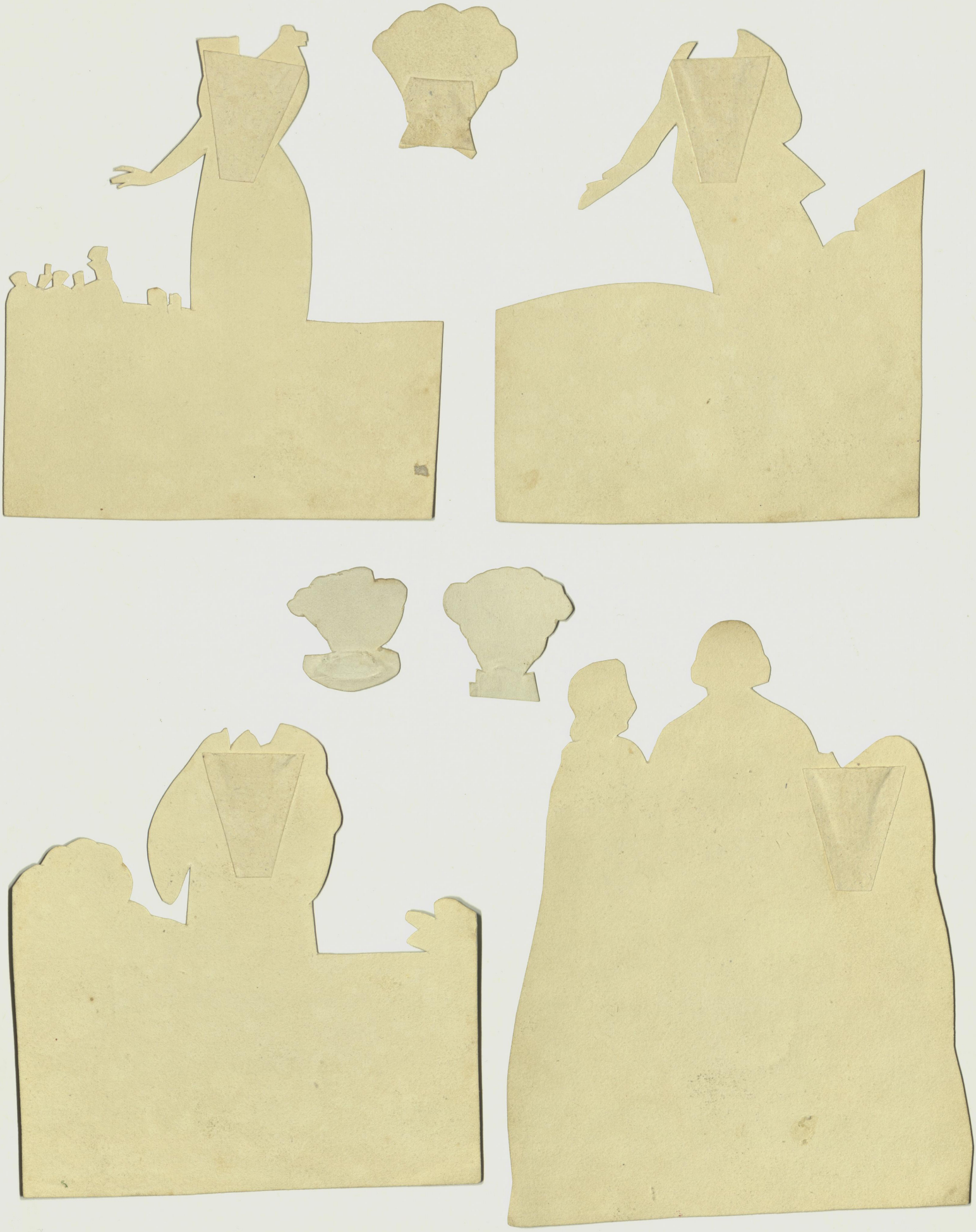

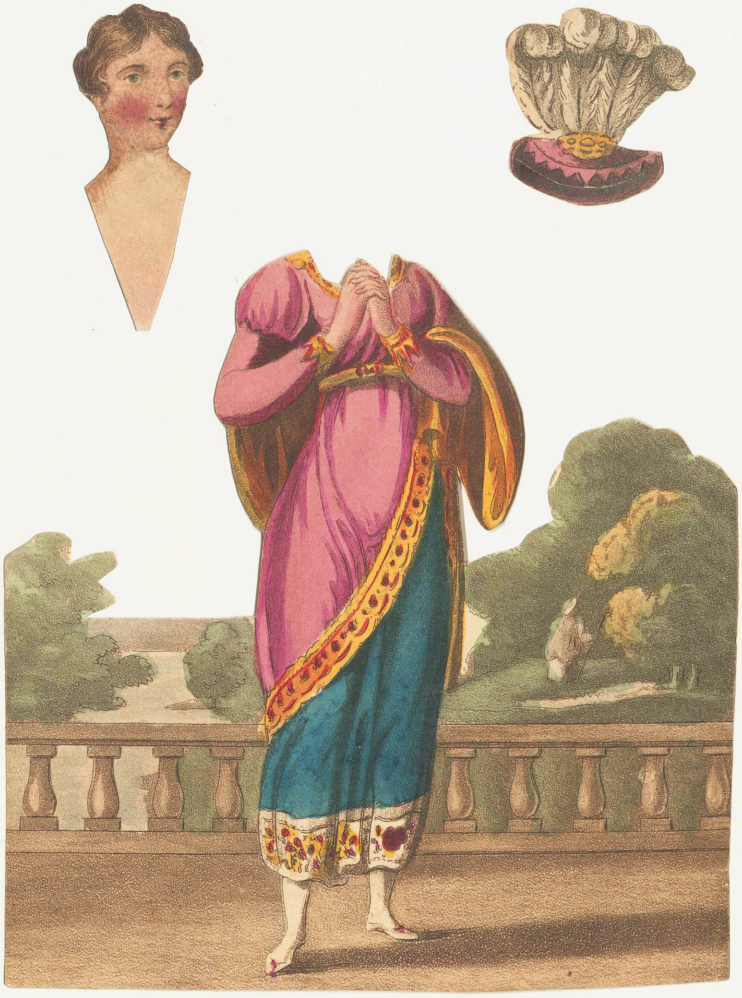

Making Your Own Temple of Fancy Paper Dolls

Although the paper dolls that came with *Little Fanny, Little Henry,* and the rest were already finished when the books were sold, you can make sets for yourself. The original dolls were printed on stiff paper. Pieces of thinner paper were glued to the backs of the costumes to create pockets into which the head fit snugly. Unlike modern paper dolls, the head moved from costume to costume.

You will need: cardstock to print the figures on; medium weight paper to make the pockets for the head; scissors and/or a craft knife; glue or paste; a pencil.

Print the paper doll sheet(s) onto cardstock or another stiff paper. Alternatively, print onto ordinary printer paper and paste the sheet onto heavier stock as your first step.

Cut out the heads and costumes. (The original books came with one head and many have been lost in the intervening 200 years. For most dolls, the pdf includes two, just to be sure.) For some costumes it is easier to make the pocket for the head and let the glue dry <u>before</u> you finish cutting out the figure. Look at the scan of the backs of the originals to identify these costumes – the backing paper covers all the way to the edge. Leave a margin uncut, make the pocket, then finish cutting front and back papers together. You may choose to reinforce parts that might get bent (like arms or necks) with extra paper on the back of the figure; these backings can also be glued on before you finish cutting out.

On some costumes and hats, the backing paper is visible as unpainted beige areas in the scanned image. Cut these areas away when you cut out the figures. The backing paper you glue on will also show there on your own dolls.

To make the pockets for the heads, line up the head behind each costume, checking the front to see how it looks. On the back, trace the edges of the neck wedge. Apply glue <u>outside</u> the lines, leaving a narrow extra border (1/16" or 1.5mm) free of glue also. Stick down your backing paper.

For hats with brims (both of Henry's and two of Fanny's), first cut a slit with a craft knife along the curved line you can see in the image; the head fits through the slit and the brim appears behind the head. For all hats, on the back, trace the top of the head. Glue on paper to make the pockets.

Press the assembled costumes flat until they are dry. Finish cutting out the figures. Your doll is ready for you to play!

Note: two sets of images of the fronts of the dolls are provided. The first is a scan from the originals. The second is a version of that image which has been brightened to make it print truer to the original colors on a test printer. You may find one or the other works better for you.